(a) whether Government is implementing a scheme on social forestry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme is being implemented in Goa;

(d) whether any financial assistance is given to Goa Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is not implementing any scheme on social forestry.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Report on missing tigers

1096. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a report of Wildlife Institute of India, 164 tigers are missing in Uttar Pradesh in the past four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As per the findings of the recent All India estimation in 2008, jointly done by the Wildlife Institute of India and the National Tiger Conservation Authority, using the refined methodology, the estimated population of tigers in Uttar Pradesh is 109 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 91 and 127 respectively. The new findings are based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks.

(d) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 1091 Part (c).]

Carbon capture and storage facility

1097. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State run power utilities and independent power producers have objected to the installation of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) facility since it would increase the cost of capital nearly by 150 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such cost would cause burden on the consumers; and